

Updated with new information on Wednesday, January 24, 2007

What Property Owners Should Know About Water Use Permits



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The Dade County Farm Bureau and South Florida Water Management District are providing information to assist property owners in their efforts to renew and make first-time applications for water use permits. Agricultural landowners are strongly encouraged to take a moment to review the following information:

Q: Who needs a permit?

A: Any user of ground or surface water for any purpose other than residential use. Exceptions to this requirement are limited, and include fire suppression, seawater and reclaimed wastewater re-use (as a sole use).

Q: Why do I need a water use permit?

A: As per Florida Statutes, Chapter 373, "it is the policy of the Legislature that the waters in the state be managed on a state and regional basis. Consistent with this directive, the Legislature recognizes the need to allocate water throughout the state so as to meet all reasonable-beneficial uses." Furthermore, Chapter 373 states "The governing board of each water management district shall... implement a program for the issuance of permits authorizing the consumptive use of particular quantities of water covering those areas deemed appropriate by the governing board."

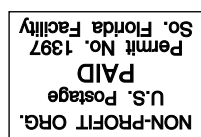
Besides being a legal requirement, a Water Use Permit establishes the right of the user to the permitted use of the water on a given property, and provides certainty that the permit holder's access to the supply of water that is allocated under the permit is protected.

Q: What are the basic differences between the water use permit classes? (Include gallons per day, fee, permit duration, etc.)

- A: There are three basic Water Use Permit classes: Minor General, Major General and Individual. The breakdown of allocations and fees is as follows:
- Minor General Permit
Less than 100,000 gallons per day (3,000,000 gallons per month) - \$350
 - Major General Permit
100,000 to 500,000 gallons per day (3,000,000 to 15,000,000 gallons per month) - \$1,000
 - New or Modified Individual Permit (5 year duration)
Greater than 500,000 gallons per day (15,000,000 gallons per month) - \$1,000
 - **Individual Permit Renewal (20 year duration)**
Greater than 500,000, but less than 1,000,000 gallons per day (15,000,000 to 30,000,000 gallons per month) - \$1,600
Greater than 1,000,000, but less than 10,000,000 gallons per day (30,000,000 to 300,000,000 gallons per month) - \$3,400
Greater than 10,000,000 gallons per day (300,000,000 gallons per month) - \$5,600

It is important to note that the cost of the permit is an administrative fee, payable under the following circumstances:

- Application for a new, non-existing permit
- Application for renewal of an existing permit
- Application for when substantial modification to an existing permit is requested at a later date



DADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
1850 Old Dixie Highway
Homestead, FL 33033

